

## Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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PASS USDA/FAS/FCA/NOVOTNY/STEVENSON AND ERS/SCHOONOVER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP UR

SUBJECT: HYDROMET VIEW OF WEATHER/CROP SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) AGATTS ANLAUF AND BEEGHLI VISITED HYDROMET APRIL 8 TO DISCUSS MOISTURE RESERVES AND OTHER METEOROLOGICAL DATA BEARING ON 1977 GRAIN AND COTTON PRODUCTION PROSPECTS. OFFICIALS THERE VIEW OVERALL WEATHER/CROP SITUATION AT THIS DATE AS "BEST IN FIVE-SIX YEARS." DETAILS FOLLOW END SUMMARY.

2. SOIL MOISTURE--OFFICIALS SAID SOIL MOISTURE WAS NORMAL FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR IN THE UKRAINE AND WEST SIBERIA; SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL IN THE KUBAN, URALS (EXCEPT CHELYBINSK), UPPER VOLGA AND CENTRAL CHERNOZEM ZONE; SLIGHTLY BELOW NORMAL IN LOWER VOLGA (ASTRAKHAN), N.E. CAUCASUS AND MOST OF KAZAKHSTAN. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT REPORT (GIVEN PAOASUK) OF BELOW-NORMAL SOIL MOISTURE IN KUBAN, OFFICIALS REPLIED, "THIS WAS TRUE UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY, BUT RAINFALL SINCE HAS BEEN AMPLE."

3. WINTERKILL -- HYDROMET OFFICIALS SAID EVALUATION OF EXTENT OF WINTERKILL IS RESPONSIBILITY OF MIN AG  
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BUT IN THEIR VIEW WINTERKILL HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY LESS THAN NORMAL. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOST SERIOUS SETBACK WAS MID-OCTOBER FREEZE WHICH REDUCED WINTER-HARDINESS OF PLANTS IN SOME REGIONS. THEY ALSO VOLUNTEERED SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUSLY THAT, HAD THEY BEEN ASKED THEIR OPINION ON WINTERKILL TWO MONTHS AGO, THEY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN AS OPTIMISTIC AS THEY ARE NOW.

4. SPRIN --OFFICIALS REPORTED THAT THIS YEAR'S SPRING WAS TWO WEEKS AHEAD OF NORMAL IN THE UKRAINE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA, AND ABOVE NOR NORMAL IN THE MOSCOW REGION AND FURTHER NORTH.

5. COTTON -- CENTRAL ASIAN WINTER RUNOFF AND SNOW MELT WAS DESCRIBED BY HYDROMET OFFICIALS AS BEING "NEAR NORMAL." THEY ALSO STATED THAT IRRIGATION WATER AVAILABILITY FOR COTTON PRODUCIG AREA HAD BEEN BELOW NORMAL FOR PAST THREE YEARS, THEY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT OFTEN WHEN WATER RESERVES ARE GOOD, WATER IS USED LESS CAREFULLY AND THE FULL BENEFITS ARE NOT REAPED. NONETHELESS, THEY SAID THE OUTLOOK FOR THIS YEAR'S COTTON CROP WOULD HAVE TO BE DESCRIBED AS "GOOD."  
(END UNCLASSIFIED)

6. BEGIN LOU) COMMENT: HYDROMET OFFICIALS WERE MUCH MORE FORTHCOMING THAN WE HAD EXPECTED. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY OBVIOUSLY WANTED AN EMBASSY EAR TO DISCUSS THE DELAY IN US EXPORT LICENSING OF A CONTROL DATA 7600 COMPUTER THEY MAINTAIN IS ESSENTIAL IF THEY ARE TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN THE GLOBAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROGRAM. (END LOU)

(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) WE WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEIR INCREASED OPTIMISM ON THE MATTER OF WINTERKILL WAS DUE TO EVIDENCE THAT PLANTS WHICH WERE THOUGHT TO BE HAVE BEEN AFFECTED HAD, IN FACT, RESUMED GROWTH, OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHETHER IT WAS BASED MOSTLY ON THE WELCOME ARRIVAL OF MILD LATE-WINTER WEATHER FOLLOWING THE PERCEIVED LOSSES OF AN EARLY FALL AND SEVERE JANUARY. IN ANY EVENT, THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY THE RECENT PROGRESS OF WINTER GRAINS, PARTICULARLY IN THE KUBAN. THE EARLY SPRING WILL, OF COURSE, ALSO BENEFIT THE COTTON CROP NOW BEING SOWN. IF CURRENT WATER SUPPLIES ARE USED JUDICIOUSLY, PROSPECTS FOR RECORD PRODUCTION WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED GOOD. (END UNCLASSIFIED.  
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## Message Attributes

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